

# *Mill Woods* **Mosaic**

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The Multicultural Voice of Edmonton Southeast

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## This month:

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A corporate executive returns to her nursing roots to help support staff and care for residents at a long-term care facility.

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## The Year of the Tiger

Happy Chinese New Year! 2022 is the Year of the Tiger. On Jan. 29, there was a virtual Lunar New Year celebration, put together by the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Education Association and the Chinese Graduates Association of Alberta, sponsored by Kingsway Mall. Photo: Hung Mon Athletic Club Lion Dance to welcome the Year of the Tiger.

Photo: Stephen Tsang

## Modernizing Canada's immigration system

The Government of Canada is planning to modernize its immigration system to support economic recovery and improve client experience. On Jan. 31, the federal Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship has issued the following statement:

Immigration is the engine of the Canadian economy, helping to address labour shortages and keep our communities thriving. Newcomers have played an essential role in addressing some of our most severe labour shortages throughout the pandemic, including on the front lines. However, there remain challenges, including processing delays that have led to frustrations for those trying to come to Canada to work or reunite with their families. While Canada welcomed the highest number of permanent residents in a single year in 2021 by processing a record number of applications, border restrictions and other pandemic-related factors have led to delays for many applicants, and long waits for application updates. We know these need to be addressed.

On Jan. 31, the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced measures to improve client experience and modernize the immigration system. These measures are part of a broader process to address key challenges faced by our clients, and achieve the more predictable processing times that our clients expect and deserve.

We know that many talented and skilled newcomers have waited long during the pandemic. In the Economic and Fiscal

Update 2021, the Government of Canada proposed \$85 million in new funding to reduce application inventories. The investment will support additional staff, allowing us to welcome people who can help address labour shortages and to return to processing service standards in various programs by the end of this year, including for study permits, work permits and permanent resident card renewals. We are also working to reduce processing times for visitor visas and proof of citizenship.

These improvements will build on what Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has already done to reduce wait times, such as hiring approximately 500 new processing staff, digitizing applications, and reallocating work among our offices around the world.

To help accelerate our processing work, we are expanding the use of advanced data analytics in helping officers sort and process visitor visa applications submitted from outside Canada. During the time the data analytics system has been used for visitor visas, it has been shown that routine files can be assessed 87% faster, resulting in some applicants receiving decisions more quickly while program integrity is maintained. An IRCC officer will always make the final decision, but this system will improve client service by helping IRCC manage the increasing volume of visitor visa applications.

IRCC made over half a million decisions on permanent resident applications in 2021. We are further increasing processing capacity and plan to make 147,000 permanent residence final deci-

sions in the first quarter of 2022—doubling what was done in the same period last year.

To further support permanent residence applicants, we will be expanding the digital application portal to include more clients in summer 2022. The transition to an online application process will minimize COVID-19-related delays associated with processing paper applications, and will provide clients with immediate confirmation that their application was successfully submitted. Efforts to date have allowed average processing times for spousal sponsorship applicants to return to the service standard of 12 months for new applications.

We understand that clients want easier access to status updates on their case files. That is why we will also introduce a new Permanent Residence Application Tracker in February 2022 for spouses and dependents, to allow clients to easily access their application information and status online.

To further address COVID-19-related challenges and expedite the process, IRCC has also developed a portal to allow permanent residence applicants in Canada to finalize their process and receive their permanent residency cards without any in-person interaction. From June 2021 to December 2021, 225,000 permanent residents have used this portal.

For citizenship applicants, IRCC has introduced online testing, developed an online application tracker and launched

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## Modernizing Canada's immigration system

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virtual citizenship ceremonies. Over the last few months, we have hosted approximately 350 virtual ceremonies per month, and more than 170,000 new Canadians have been sworn in since April 1, 2020. We are continuing to expand the use of virtual ceremonies. Moving forward, we are exploring an option for those who wish to self-administer their Oath by signed attestation, and celebrate their citizenship at a later date. This would shorten the waiting time for those at the final stage of their citizenship process.

As our work continues, IRCC remains dedicated to providing meaningful, timely, and transparent information to our clients. This includes updating our online processing times tool in the coming months to give our clients more up-to-date estimates of how long it will take to process their applications. We will continue to focus on ways to modernize how we deliver our programs and services, so Canada can continue to be a destination of choice for people all over the world.

"I know that processing delays have been incredibly frustrating for many individuals," said Minister Fraser. "Helping clients come to Canada quickly, with predictable processing times and efficient communication with IRCC, remains a top priority for me. Immigration benefits all Canadians—it helps grow our economy and strengthens our communities across the country. Many people are choosing Canada as the place to visit and build their future, and to ensure that we stay competitive, we have introduced concrete measures to make sure those who want to come to Canada have the client experience they deserve."

### Quick facts

- Budget 2021 invested \$428.9 million over 5 years, with \$398.5 million in remaining amortization, starting in 2021–2022, to develop and deliver an enterprise-wide digital platform that would gradually replace IRCC's legacy Global Case Management System. This secure, stable and flexible plat-

form will help improve application processing and support for applicants.

- Immigration accounts for almost 100% of Canada's labour force growth. Roughly 75% of Canada's population growth comes from immigration. Immigrants help address labour shortages in critical sectors such as health care, create jobs, drive economic growth, and enrich Canadian communities.

- Canada exceeded its ambitious target of welcoming 401,000 new perma-

nent residents in 2021. Surpassing the previous record from 1913, this is the most newcomers in a year in Canadian history.

- 62% of new permanent residents in 2021 were economic immigrants.

- Following a record year for study permits in 2019, IRCC increased our output by 32% in 2021 by finalizing almost 560,000 study permit applications.

- The processing times presented in IRCC's "Check processing times" tool

provide clients with an estimate of how long it will take to process most applications, based on how long clients have been waiting for their applications to be processed.

- IRCC is committed to a fair and non-discriminatory application of immigration procedures. We take this responsibility seriously and officers are trained to assess applications equally against the same criteria.

**More information:** [www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship](http://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship)

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## Premier's summit to improve newcomer success

Premier Jason Kenney will host a one-day summit on improving the newcomer experience and attracting international skills and talent to support Alberta's Recovery Plan.

On Feb. 16, the inaugural Premier's Summit on Fairness for Newcomers will bring together Alberta's immigration partners to look at the challenges newcomers face and consider the best actions to support their success.

"Alberta has always been a land of opportunity," said Kenney. "From the First Nations who first established trade routes to the pioneers who ploughed the ground to generations of immigrants who have come to Alberta to pursue freedom and prosperity. Each have left a legacy and imparted their values on Alberta and we are so much better for it. I'm bringing Alberta's newcomer communities together to discuss how we can continue this legacy and make sure Alberta remains a land of opportunity for generations to come."

This summit will include keynote presentations from Kenney, Minister of Labour and Immigration Tyler Shandro, Associate Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism Muhammad Yaseen, York University assistant professor Akolisa Ufodike and economist Linda Nazareth.

Presentations and panel discussions will highlight important issues and

challenges Alberta's newcomers face, such as foreign qualification recognition, labour mobility, supports for integration and settlement, and the importance of immigration to Alberta's workforce and economy. Throughout the day, newcomers will share their firsthand experiences of coming to Alberta.

"Attracting and retaining skilled newcomers is a key part of Alberta's Recovery Plan to help strengthen our workforce and get Albertans back to work," said Shandro. "I look forward to the insightful conversations that will occur at the Premier's Summit that will help inform Alberta's immigration policy to ensure we attract the best and brightest to communities across our province."

"As an immigrant, I understand the unique economic and social barriers that newcomers experience when establishing themselves in a new country," said Yaseen. "The Premier's Summit is an opportunity to help Alberta's government pursue actions that will make our province a more welcoming, diverse and inclusive place for all."

The Premier's Summit will occur annually to ensure Alberta's immigration approach meets the needs of newcomers and Alberta's job creators and communities.

[www.alberta.ca/premierssummit](http://www.alberta.ca/premierssummit)

## Whose freedom?

Last month, I wrote here about the 75th anniversary of the Canadian Citizenship Act and said that we are lucky to be Canadians, because we live in a country where human rights are respected and citizens are accepted, no matter who they are and where they came from.

But then, the "Freedom Convoy" hit our capital city Ottawa. It started as a protest rally of truck drivers who demanded from the federal government to lift the vaccine mandates and COVID-19 measures. The truckers drove many of their big rigs to the national capital, parked them on Parliament Hill, and have refused to leave since then.

When I studied at the University of Hamburg in Germany in the 1970s, I saw many protest rallies and participated in some of them. The issues were reform of the education system, construction of nuclear power plants, and peace and disarmament. Some of these rallies were peaceful, and some were violent. In most cases, the majority of protesters was peaceful, but there were always some "agent provocateurs" who tried to radicalize the rallies with violent actions.

But the German police never hesitated to take action, and if the vio-

lence in the streets escalated, they enforced the laws with riot police and used tear gas and water canons to disperse the crowds, and the troublemakers were arrested, charged and convicted.

Therefore, I don't understand why the police in Ottawa and at the other protests in Windsor and Coulters are so reluctant to take action.



Of course, these rallies are more challenging, because it is difficult to remove these big rigs, but it has to be done. We can not allow this unlawful behaviour to continue in our cities.

The protesters, who have occupied Ottawa, claim to fight for their freedom, but they are

infringing the freedom of many residents and businesses in our capital. We are all sick and tired of the pandemic, which has ruled our lives almost two years now, but if all the protective measures would be lifted, we have to expect that the numbers of infections will increase again. And for the sake of our democracy, we must not allow that mobs rule our streets and interrupt our daily life.

*Anisim Joop*

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## Mill Woods Mosaic

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The Mill Woods Mosaic publishes a variety of opinions.  
Unsigned editorials express the view of the publisher.  
Signed pieces express the views of the writers only.

## Our Opinion

### Where's the good news?

There seem to be more and more people who don't pay attention to newscasts anymore. Even news junkies, who follow the news regularly, are tuning out now, because newscasts are dominated by bad news: the COVID-19 pandemic, rowdy protesters in Ottawa and other Canadian cities, the treat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine, etc.

So, where is the good news?

There is an old saying, "If it bleeds, it leads", which means if there's violence, conflict or death involved, it gets top billing. Nowhere is this more true than in television news which often tends to focus on the bad apples, even if there are only a few.

But community newspapers, like the *Mill Woods Mosaic*, often focus on the good news, and many readers appreciate that, because they are sick and tired of the negativity of the mainstream media. The "Freedom Convoy" of truckers is a good example. While a few hundred of them have created havoc, the overwhelming majority of them has continued to do their job and delivered the goods we need every day, but they didn't get much TV coverage.

It is important that we continue to pay attention, because we need to be informed, but we must not allow to be distracted by bad news and fake news.



Many of the protesters, who participated in the "Freedom Convoy" in Ottawa, have misbehaved. Some urinated on the National War Memorial, some defaced the Terry Fox statue, and some harassed staff at a homeless shelter.

Cartoon by Susan Moshynski ([www.bythebay.squarespace.com](http://www.bythebay.squarespace.com))

## What, exactly, is the "Freedom Convoy"?

The "Freedom Convoy" was originally a protest organized by Canadian truck drivers against the government's strict vaccination rules. It soon grew with the speed of a snowball, collecting rocks and detritus and growing in size as it rolls down the mountain.

The movement that started last January 28 soon became a protest against every rule aimed to eradicate Covid-19 in Canada. Not much later, it also included a call for Justin Trudeau's government to step down, no doubt fuelled by support from the conservatives. Other opportunistic groups hoping to push their own agenda jumped on the bandwagon: white supremacists, racist movements, conspiracy theorists, antisemites and others. As well, American right-wing supporters and Republicans that included Donald Trump loudly expressed their support of the convoy.

Protesters drove their trailer and cargo trucks, pickups and private vehicles into Ottawa and parked wherever they pleased, including residential areas, effectively disrupting life in neighbourhoods. Other drivers blocked border crossings in Alberta, Manitoba, and the Windsor-Detroit Ambassador Bridge to prevent other vehicles from moving in and out of the capital. A certain level of lawlessness prevailed, and the protest, according to the news, has evolved into occupation. The protesters swore they were not

going anywhere until their demands were granted. In response, counter protesters that include local labour unions, residents and community organizers gathered at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa to support frontline workers and to

**Crisanta Sampang**

**On  
Second  
Thought**



block new vehicles trying to join the convoy and to "say no to white supremacy, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia and all other forms of hate that the protesters have directed at residents."

A class action lawsuit has been filed against the convoy organizers by Ottawa residents who say their lives have been unreasonably affected by the protest.

Prime Minister Trudeau seems to be quite mellow in handling this crisis, mostly leaving the job to his ministers, the premier of Ontario, and the mayor of Ottawa. This attitude is way differ-

ent from Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's action in dealing with a violent uprising by separatists in Quebec in 1970. Pierre Trudeau was Justin Trudeau's father. At the time, two government people were kidnapped, one of whom was killed later. Bombs were exploded in Montreal. Robberies and other crimes went out of control. When asked by the media, what he intended to do about it, Pierre Trudeau answered, "Just watch me."

Trudeau Senior then proceeded to apply the War Measures Act, a federal law passed by Parliament in 1914 at the beginning of the First World War. The Act gave the Canadian government broad powers to maintain security and order during war, invasion or insurrection. Pierre Trudeau sent hundreds of soldiers to Montreal. Houses were searched, civil liberties were suspended and people were thrown in jail without charges. It was a move that effectively stopped the insurrection.

The War Measures Act was replaced by the Emergencies Act in the 1980s. Justin Trudeau has been called "chicken" by online media and criticized for his lack of pushback, and urged by the *New York Times* to channel his inner Pierre Trudeau in handling the growing convoy problem, but has stayed determined to resolve the protest by peaceful means.

Having grown up in the Philippines and lived through martial law, and watched both Marcos and Duterte keep the Filipinos in line through threats of death and imprisonment, I couldn't help thinking that Justin is a bit too lenient. I believe in jailing people who willingly break the law under the guise of protesting, and even in using a bit of violence whenever truly necessary. Heck, even the police in Paris didn't hesitate to fire tear gas on freedom convoys to prevent vehicles from entering the city.

I have, however, developed great respect for GoFundMe, a popular fundraising platform that handled the first wave of public donations toward the convoy protests. GoFundMe stopped accepting donations for the "Freedom Convoy" because it refuses to support movements that condone violence, something that violates their terms of service. That's what I call integrity.

Eighteen days later, the convoy looks like it might be slowing down. Truckers and their vehicles were removed from the Ambassador Bridge, and other demonstrators were moved from residential neighbourhoods into the city. Premier Doug Ford announced reopening Ontario on Feb. 14, and Mayor Jim Watson said he had reached a tentative agreement with the protesters, while organizers denied that a deal has been reached.

I still think invoking the Emergencies Act is necessary.



## For Freedom's Sake

"Give me liberty, or give me death!" The quote is attributed to a speech Patrick Henry made on March 23, 1775, to convince participants at the Second Virginia Convention to join the budding rebellion against the British. Then as it is now, the statement serves as a battle cry, a call to arms as it were, against perceived repression and injustice. However, when uttered, this now-famous quote was not a novel idea or sentiment. Somewhat similar declarations have been made throughout history to encourage those who felt oppressed, to master their courage, rise up, and struggle to regain their freedom.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, freedom is defined as "the power to do what you want to do: the ability to move or act freely". It is a powerful and persistent concept, relevant to every human activity. Given its broad and appealing message, it has been a consistent human aspiration throughout history. Therefore, it continues to evoke much attention, and is easily found at the core of all art forms, philosophical or political ideologies, and armed struggles. Yet, despite its breathtaking appeal, the notion of freedom is frequently misunderstood or misapplied, and is therefore flawed, especially when taken out of context.

On its own, freedom is often presented or considered as a limitless opportunity to do as one pleases, without qualifications, restrictions, or consideration for the consequences of one's actions on others. This perspective is the notion's Achilles heel; freedom without limits simply does not exist, except perhaps in theory.

Nature provides us with numerous examples of the universal desire for freedom. For example, once captured or contained, animals typically strive to escape their confinement and return

to their natural habitat. Some even go to extreme measures to reach their freedom, as in the case of animals that chew off their foot to escape from a leg

**Ron Kuban**

*Time Passages*



trap. Why? They want to exist without restrictions – be able to roam freely, seek food, find shelter, and avoid perceived dangers – which is at the core of their natural tendencies. Similarly, the inherent nature of plants drives them to continue growing beyond encountered barriers.

Our Stone Age ancestors readily recognized that survivability in their hostile world required collaboration, not independence. As a result, they banded into family units, clans, and tribes in a collective effort for shelter, food, and protection. Initially, they sought protection from predatory beasts; however, as populations grew and became more fragmented or hostile, humans also needed protection from other humans. In time, many freedoms such as property rights, unrestricted travel, and so on were traded off for more important necessities such as sustenance, shelter, personal safety, and the opportunity to earn a livelihood. The cry for freedom typically rose only when these basic benefits were taken away or threatened. History clearly indicates that social collaboration has been beneficial for the survival of the human race.

The current size, diversity, and interdependence of the global population mandates collaboration like never before; however, that is a tough pill to swallow for humans who cherish their freedom. Their sense of independence and self-determination starts early in life, as demonstrated by toddlers who are the epitome of escape artists, or the battle cry of preschoolers: "You are not the boss of me!"

For many such children, lessons about collaboration begin within their family unit, or at school; predictably, these youngsters push back against the restrictions imposed on them. However, in time, they often begin to recognize the need to curtail their urges and trade some of their independence for more-desirable benefits or options. Such exchanges are further reinforced at the workplace and a myriad of adult social relationships.

A number of 17th and 18th century philosophers described willingly-entered agreements or "social contracts" between the general populace and its rulers. These contracts, which required members of each party to forego or curtail some of their natural urges and lawless behaviour, were seen as the only viable way for each group to meet its respective goals. In

time, these social contracts helped define social responsibilities and the development of civil societies governed by the rule of law, which fostered greater interdependence among people.

As such, we now generally refrain from many undesirable actions which our long-ago ancestors considered their norm. For example, we are restricted from unauthorized entry into places, theft of things that belong to others, causing harm or injury to others, taking actions contrary to the law (e.g., driving without a license or insurance), lying, and much more.

The point is, our social contract binds us not only to our government, employer, or those to whom we must report, but to each other. As we strive to live our own life, we need to consider the impact of our actions upon others, and adjust these actions in the context of the common good. Simply stated, we can no longer do what we want to do, just because we want to do it. Such wanton behaviour would place us – individually and collectively – in great and perhaps existential danger. Paradoxically, we must curtail some elements of our freedom to secure many more-important freedoms. It is that simple.

*Dr. Ron Kuban is a long-term community volunteer and activist.*

### ECSD one of Alberta's Top Employers again Edmonton Catholic Schools Trustee Laura Thibert

Edmonton Catholic Schools (ECSD) was chosen as one of **Alberta's Top 75 Employers for 2022**, making the Top 75 list for the seventh year in a row! We were honoured to be recognized as one of the leaders in our field, providing exceptional conditions and opportunities for our employees. ECSD is blessed to have a staff in a vast array of roles who, each and every day, bring an exceptional Catholic education to life and nurture our students to reach their fullest potential.

On February 8, 2022, the Government of Alberta announced the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, some of which directly affect all students, ECS to grade 12. Effective February 14, students are not required to wear a mask when attending school in person or when riding the school bus. The masking mandate remains in place for all adults including teachers, administrators, and other school staff, including school bus drivers, until March 1, 2022. The health, safety, and well-being of students and staff have always been, and will continue to be, central to ECSD decisions. As a community, we have come to understand and respect that there are varied opinions about the measures and restrictions that have been mandated. ECSD will continue to support a student's choice regarding masking, encourage students and staff to stay home when feeling unwell and maintain measures which includes elementary co-horting, enhanced cleaning and sanitization, and a focus on hand hygiene.

After several years of planning and construction, I am thrilled to announce completion of the modernization and expansion project at Holy Trinity Catholic High School. Changes include an increased student capacity, a beautiful new chapel, a second gym, new learning commons, a music room, and

state of the art Cosmetology lab! Please join me in celebrating this remarkable and spectacular building that will enhance the strong and vibrant Catholic education being provided in Ward 77!

As a result of The Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation Dreams for Kids fundraising campaign, several schools have received a Conquer Hunger grant that provides financial assistance so

schools may offer healthy school lunch and/or snack programs to students. Unmet nutritional needs for some of our children sometimes makes it very difficult for them to focus on learning, to pay attention in structured environments, and to exhibit appropriate behaviours in some settings. The Board of Trustees is truly grateful for the extraordinary partnership we have with the Edmonton Catholic Schools Foundation. A partnership fueled by passion, commitment, and dedication in helping meet the diverse needs of our children and youth. These grants are truly a blessing as they impact our students in such significant ways. Through the remarkable efforts of the Foundation, incredible donors, and a committed and dedicated staff we are able to ensure that serving students continues to be our top priority. Please consider donating by visiting [www.ecsfoundation.ca](http://www.ecsfoundation.ca) to find out more.

I want to close by saying that I am committed to making decisions that are in the best interests of our students and I am very interested in engaging with members of our school communities. I welcome any questions or comments you have regarding educational matters and look forward to chatting with you. I can be reached at 780-231-6312, or by e-mail at [Laura.Thibert@ecsd.net](mailto:Laura.Thibert@ecsd.net). You can also contact me on Facebook and Twitter @Laura.Thibert.



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## Winter Olympics – here's why we're calling them the "Genocide Games"

On Feb. 4, the "Genocide Olympics" began.

The Olympic Charter promotes lofty ideals, yet the International Olympic Committee awarded the 2022 Winter Games to China, whose government is recognized as committing ongoing crimes against humanity. Eight nations, including Canada, the United States and Britain, have announced diplomatic boycotts of the Games because of Beijing's egregious record on human dignity.

Without the checks and balances of rule-of-law governance, tragedies occur. The world recently commemorated "International Holocaust Day," memorializing the terrible multi-year extermination policy of six million Jews and others in totalitarian Nazi Germany. Under Xi Jinping's similar governance model, severe persecution of minorities continues across China.

Since 2014, Xi has persecuted Uyghurs and other Turkic peoples by placing approximately one million of them in "re-education" centres and using others for forced labour in Xinjiang and elsewhere. Their children were placed in Mandarin-only boarding schools and orphanages for indoctrination.

Beijing has destroyed thousands of mosques, cemeteries and buildings. Eleven million Uyghurs are subjected to intense surveillance, including the placement of Han civilians (the main ethnic group in China) in their homes. In February 2021, Canada's Parliament voted unanimously to recognize these actions as genocide.

Beijing tried to destroy Tibetan culture when it invaded Tibet in 1950, then crushed a revolt in 1959. The Dalai Lama escaped to India, where a

the Chinese Communist Party felt threatened and launched a massive campaign in 1999 to eradicate it.

The regime sent hundreds of thousands of practitioners to "re-education" camps. Many were tortured, sometimes to death, as authorities used physical and psychological coercion to force them to recant their beliefs. Tens of thousands died as their organs were forcibly harvested for China's transplant industry. In June 2019, an independent tribunal in London concluded that imprisoned Falun Gong continued to be murdered by the regime for their organs.

When sovereignty over Hong Kong passed from the United Kingdom to China in 1997, Beijing agreed to allow it to maintain its economic, political and legal systems for 50 years, based on a "one country, two systems" policy. The Xi government has assaulted the "high degree of autonomy" granted to 7.5 million people, removing basic freedoms and provoking huge protests. Xi's bid to increase control over Hong Kong culminated in June 2020, when he bypassed the Hong Kong legislature and imposed a new national security law that effectively criminalizes dissent and allows Beijing to establish a security force in Hong Kong. The law gave sweeping new powers to the police, denied rights to a fair trial, and squelched freedom of speech and freedom of the media.

Authorities have used the law to quash all forms of political opposition. They removed elected lawmakers

opposing China's control of Hong Kong, arrested prominent pro-democracy activists and began replacing the liberal education in Hong Kong schools with repatriation programs. New electoral rules allow only party loyalists to win a seat on Hong Kong's Legislative Council.

Former premier Wen Jiabao said a decade ago, "... reform in China has (reached) a critical stage. Without the success of political structural reform, (it's) impossible ... to fully institute economic structural reform. The gains (we've) made ... may be lost, new problems that have cropped up in China's society cannot be fundamentally resolved and such historical tragedy as the Cultural Revolution may happen again."

Unfortunately, under Xi the rule of law and democratic reforms sought by Wen and others have ended. Xi has reinterpreted democracy across China as totalitarianism, including opposition to multi-party elections and independence of judges. The world should stand for the rights of all the peoples of China. The IOC should stop awarding the Games to totalitarian regimes.

**This article was first published by the Ottawa Citizen.**

*David Kilgour, a lawyer by profession, served in Canada's House of Commons for almost 27 years, representing southeast Edmonton. He was Secretary of State for Africa and Latin America and Asia-Pacific. He is the author of several books and co-author with David Matas of Bloody Harvest: The Killing of Falun Gong for Their Organs.*

**David  
Kilgour**

**A Canadian  
View on  
World Events**



Tibetan government-in-exile was established. Thirty years later, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for advocating peaceful solutions ... to preserve the ... heritage of (Tibetans)."

The suppression of Tibetan Buddhism and destruction of monasteries continues today. In 2021, the Tibet Action Institute reported that authorities are separating children from their parents. Almost one million children are living in a vast network of boarding schools and studying primarily in Chinese. Prohibited from practicing their religion, they are subjected to Chinese Communist Party indoctrination.

Rooted in Buddhist tradition, Falun Gong combines meditation and exercise movements with a philosophy emphasizing the virtues of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance. When the movement expanded to tens of millions of followers in the 1990s,

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## Speaking to diversity through “A Pattern of Language”

The Valley Line Southeast LRT project is adding a splash of colour and texture to communities along the route thanks to the City's *Percent for Art Policy*, managed by the Edmonton Arts Council.

The Valley Line Southeast LRT project public art collection includes art glass, sculptures, a mosaic and a series of paintings. Additional opportunities for artists to get involved in the Valley Line Public Art are yet to be announced.

Individual artists, organizations and collectives sent in 260 submissions for the public art opportunities along the 13-km LRT route. Each submission was reviewed by selection committees made up of community members, local artist representatives, project personnel and City of Edmonton staff. The commissions were awarded to four Edmonton-based artists, three Alberta-based artists, one international artist, one Indigenous artist team and one Métis artist.

Alberta-based artist Karen Ho Fatt Lee was selected to create the canopy art at the Grey Nuns Stop in Mill Woods. Titled *A Pattern Language*, the structure was inspired by the patterns in cultural textiles, reflecting the cultural diversity of the surrounding community.

Like many of the artworks we've featured, community engagement helped refine the concept of *A Pattern Language* to build a strong connection between the community and this eye-catching piece.

Let's take a closer look at the patterned canopy structure.

Throughout history, cultures have traded and borrowed from each other, assimilating techniques and motifs into new norms. A motif is a singular design element that makes up a pattern.

To engage with the local community, Karen hosted a workshop and invited community members to bring samples of fabrics that represented their heritage. These fabrics were used as the starting point for further historical research into the motifs that appear on the canopy sculpture. After cultural experts verified fabric details, motifs from traditional textiles were woven into the final design of the Grey Nuns Stop canopy artwork.

The final design of *A Pattern Language* includes 22 traditional folk and tribal motifs with cultural significance to ethnic groups from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. The aligned motifs resemble a cloth border and are harmoniously arranged across a 53-foot-long aluminum structure. The repetition of various geometric and curvilinear motifs reflects the balance and diversity in the community.

The visual language of fabrics depicted in the canopy artwork breaks down barriers that spoken and written language may create. From Polish floral folk embroidery and a German eagle motif stitch, to an Arabic pointed star and a Vietnamese Hmong tribal pattern, there's a reflection of many cultures. The result is an integrated and



Fresh new artwork installed atop the Grey Nuns Stop canopy

Photos: Edmonton Arts Council

timeless design that unites members of the Mill Woods community.

Karen hopes this piece will inspire passengers and local communities alike. The airy artwork raised on the canopy will uplift those taking the train and turn an everyday activity into a joyful experience.

"Art is meant to inspire," Karen shared. "I hope that people can see themselves in the motifs as we are more alike than different. There is unity in diversity in this 'cloth border.'"

Heading to Mill Woods? Take a walk by the Grey Nuns Stop at 31 Avenue and 66 Street to find the motif that speaks most to you. Share your photos with us on social media using #YEGPublicArt.

### About Karen Ho Fatt Lee

Karen Ho Fatt Lee is a Canadian visual artist, designer creating two- and three-dimensional art in a variety of media. She has a number of colourful functional and artistic public art pieces within various jurisdictions in Alberta. Karen lives in the beautiful foothills of the Rocky Mountains, which provides an endless source of inspiration.

Edmonton Arts Council  
yegarts.tumblr.com

*The Edmonton Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton.*



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## Answering the call

By Karen Cho

When Laura Ginter received a call asking if she would be willing to be redeployed as a registered nurse (RN) at one of Covenant Health's rural sites, she agreed without a moment's hesitation.

Alberta had been facing a provincial nursing shortage, largely due to the impacts of COVID-19, and Laura wanted to help.

"This was not mandatory; I could have said no," says Laura. "But I care deeply about our patients and residents."

After she hung up the phone, she cried. It had been a while since she last worked as a nurse, and she wasn't sure if she was ready to go back to the front lines of health care. Laura started her RN career caring for patients in the medicine unit at an Edmonton hospital. Then 13 years ago, she hung up her scrubs and moved to corporate portfolios in human resources and integrated access before landing her current role as corporate lead for quality at Covenant Health.

Laura was identified by Covenant's redeployment team due to her RN experience and because she is still an active member of the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CRNA).

Dressed in new scrubs and memory foam high-impact walking shoes, Laura showed up for her first shift in the long-term care unit at St. Mary's Health Care Centre in Trochu right after Thanksgiving.

"After the end of my 12-hour day, my body was aching. My brain was reeling. I was reliving every detail of the day, checking over my interactions,



Laura Ginter is a registered nurse who feels fulfilled as she supports redeployment needs.

Photo: Covenant Health

remembering each resident and marveling at the team's efficiency."

RN Linda Ogilvie, who onboarded Laura, says she is impressed with how quickly she has adapted to her new role. "She enjoys her time here and likes interacting with everyone around her. She's also not afraid to step in and help out on the floor when necessary. It's always a pleasure to walk in and see she is on."

Since getting that first call, Laura has

travelled to Trochu four times.

"The staff there are truly phenomenal. They are so kind and so accepting. This has been such a great experience."

Laura also enjoys engaging with the residents. "I was doing a dressing change for a resident who is blind, so I had to tell him everything I was doing.

It took a while, but it was a great experience for the both of us. Through our conversation, I found out that he was a survivor of the Second World War. He was six when the German army rolled through his home town in Hungary. His family were taken to Auschwitz, but they survived and were liberated to East Berlin, escaped to West Berlin and eventually made their way to Canada. I would never have had an opportunity for an experience like that."

In another encounter with a resident couple, Laura was asked why she keeps coming back. She told them it's because residents are like family to her.

"If you were my dad, I would want to know that somebody here is looking after you."

Laura says she's experiencing fulfillment from returning to her nursing roots. "I'm gaining a lot from this experience. My bucket from going out there is so full."

While the redeployment is temporary, Laura says she hopes to continue to take shifts in the long term when time permits. "I need to make it work in my current role, but I'd like to continue with this. If this experience hadn't come up, it would never have crossed my mind that this was missing in my life."

Karen Cho is a Senior Communications Advisor at Covenant Health.

This article was first published in *The Vital Beat*, a weekly newsletter published by Covenant Health.

### Letters to the editor are welcome

We invite you to write letters to the editor. A maximum of 275 words is preferred. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname, and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. We don't publish letters addressed to others or sent to other publications. Please e-mail your letter to: The Editor of the Mill Woods Mosaic, mwmosaic@telus.net.



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## Accountability for Animals

By Kaitlyn Kuban

At the very start of 2022, the City of Edmonton's Animal Care & Control Centre (ACCC) placed a substantial amount of pressure on its citizens and local rescues. The centre decided, due to staffing shortages, that healthy animals are no longer welcome. Finders of stray animals must now care for and attempt to find the owners themselves unless in dire need of medical care.

Lost and stray animals are nothing new to this city and the choice to not prepare for a bump in the road is poor insight and planning and puts animals and their owners in distress. In a statement to CTV News on January 3, a spokesperson stated that they have a very small team of highly trained veterinary staff and are attempting to quickly train other members to fill positions. As we head into the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic and have just passed through one of the coldest weather snaps we have had in decades, it is extremely poor planning that zero forethought was given towards these issues; especially when the same situations took place in 2020 and 2021. Not to mention, during the aforementioned cold snap, we saw Lethbridge broaden their animal care centre intakes to help as many as possible. Edmonton needs to better fund and better employ staff within ACCC, preferably with employees who have community experience and awareness of what goes on outside the closed doors of Edmonton's Animal Care & Control Centre.

A great pressure is placed on animal rescues in and around the city that has now been greatly amplified. Rescues field frequent calls and emails throughout both the day and night, and unlike the ACCC, they are not government funded. Rescues receive funds



Ron Kuban holds Arlowe, a rescued puppy through Zoe's Animal Rescue, seen here on the night she came into care. Zoe's Animal Rescue is a volunteer-run, shelterless rescue in Edmonton ([www.zoesanimalrescue.org](http://www.zoesanimalrescue.org)).

Photo: Kaitlyn Kuban

through donations, fundraising efforts and grants, and are generally staffed with limited, unpaid volunteers who make use of their own personal time. On top of the work they already do for cats, dogs and small animals, they are now being tasked with jobs that city paid employees are choosing to disregard.

I personally have been a volunteer, in many different capacities, within two different rescue societies for ten years. I have seen first-hand the thankless work they do, the effort it takes and the compassion fatigue and abuse that occurs. To take on the job of helping people care for found animals, potentially provide food, vet care if they cannot make an appointment in time with ACCC and make efforts to reconnect lost animals with their families puts a significant strain on their donated resources. Although not surprising, the facility made the intake restriction announcement without any notice to rescues or additional resources given to help ease some of the burden.

It is imperative for city council to remember that in helping our companion animals, we are helping people. Providing safe, wide ranging, inexpensive and accessible services for companion animals allows for relationships to be built within communities that might otherwise have difficulty accessing them.

We need to see strong leadership from our Mayor and community to properly budget the Animal Care & Control Centre. Rescues need to be able to rely on the city instead of the city relying on the overcrowded, underfunded yet determined and passionate rescues.

Kaitlyn Kuban is a passionate dog mom & avid animal rescue volunteer.



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## Essay contest inviting women to explore how they can contribute to a better society

**The Legislative Assembly of Alberta launches an essay contest inviting women to explore how they can contribute to a better society.**

The Legislative Assembly of Alberta is proud to announce the launch of a new essay contest for young Alberta women. *Her Vision Inspires* essay contest invites women between the ages of 17 and 25 to submit an essay of between 250 and 500 words describing their unique vision for Alberta and, specifically, what they would do if they were a Member of the Legislative

Assembly of Alberta.

"Being a provincial representative has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Even before I was elected, I thought about the change that I wanted to see in my community, and today I am part of making that change happen," said Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk, MLA for Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville and the Alberta Representative for Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Canadian Region. "I am proud to invite other women to imagine how they can strengthen their communities

and bring about change with a career in politics. Their vision for tomorrow could inspire action today."

"Women have unlimited capacity to influence and transform communities. *Her Vision Inspires* dares women to dream about a career in politics and to discover their potential to shape Alberta society today and into the future," said Shannon Dean, QC, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

The contest is a partnership between the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and the Commonwealth Women

Parliamentarians Canadian Region, which works towards better representation of women in Legislatures throughout Canada and the Commonwealth. The organization includes women parliamentarians of provincial and territorial Legislatures and the federal parliament.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 28, 2022. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place.

Visit [assembly.ab.ca](http://assembly.ab.ca) for contest rules and online entries.

Please direct contest questions to: [HerVisionInspires@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:HerVisionInspires@assembly.ab.ca).



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## New immigration plan to fill labour market shortages and grow Canada's economy

Our immigration system has helped shape Canada into the country it is today – one that is prosperous, diverse, and welcoming to those in need. Newcomers enrich and better our communities, and they work every day to create jobs, care for our loved ones, and support local businesses. Throughout the pandemic, they have been on the front lines, working in key sectors like health care, transportation, and manufacturing. Without them, Canada would not have been able to overcome challenges in critical industries and sectors of the economy over the past 2 years. Now, more than ever, immigrants are a key part of our country's continued success.

On Feb. 14, the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, tabled the 2022-2024 Immigration Levels Plan, which charts an ambitious but responsible path for immigration that will help the Canadian economy recover and will fuel post-pandemic growth, all while strengthening communities and industries across the country that rely on immigration.

The pandemic has highlighted the contributions of newcomers to the well-being of our communities and across all sectors of the economy. Last year, Canada welcomed more than 405,000 new permanent residents—the most immigrants in a single year in our history. Despite having regained many of the jobs lost during the pandemic, there are still hundreds of thousands of positions in all sectors waiting

to be filled. Immigration already accounts for almost 100% of labour force growth, and with 5 million Canadians set to retire by the end of this decade, the worker to retiree ratio will drop down to only 3:1. This is a clear sign that we have a strong economic need for increased immigration.

To ensure Canada has the workers it needs to fill critical labour market gaps and support a strong economy into the future, the 2022-2024 Immigration Levels Plan aims to continue welcoming immigrants at a rate of about 1% of Canada's population, including 431,645 permanent residents in 2022, 447,055 in 2023, and 451,000 in 2024. This plan builds on the previous levels plan, with an increased focus on supporting our economic resurgence and post-pandemic growth.

To support these increased levels, the Government of Canada recently announced a plan to modernize Canada's immigration system to fuel economic recovery and improve client experience, which will help address key challenges faced by our clients, such as reducing inventories and creating the predictable processing times that our clients expect and deserve.

This plan will help increase the attraction and retention of newcomers in regions with acute economic, labour and demographic challenges. It will also increase Francophone immigration outside Quebec, while supporting the successful integration of French-speaking newcomers and strengthening Francophone communities across

the country. As part of our Francophone Immigration Strategy, we're working to reach a target of 4.4% of French-speaking immigrants outside Quebec by 2023.

Highlights of the plan include:

- overall admissions amounting to 1.14% of the Canadian population by 2024.
- a long-term focus on economic growth, with nearly 60% of admissions in the Economic Class.
- help for vulnerable populations, like the special measures for granting permanent residence to refugee claimants working in health care during the pandemic.
- support for global crises by providing a safe haven through humanitarian immigration to those facing persecution.
- talent retention of those already in Canada by granting permanent status to temporary residents accepted through the time limited pathways for essential workers launched in spring 2021.

This plan also recognizes the importance of family reunification and helps maintain the 12 month processing standard for spouses and children.

Canada remains firm in its global humanitarian commitments, including the plan to resettle at least 40,000 Afghan nationals over the next 2 years. To date, more than 7,550 Afghan refugees now call Canada home as a result of these efforts. By working with partners in the region, we are using all avenues available to secure

safe passage for those in Afghanistan.

The 2022-2024 Immigration Levels Plan will help cement Canada's place among the world's top destinations for talent, creating a strong foundation for post-pandemic economic growth while reuniting family members with their loved ones and fulfilling Canada's humanitarian commitments.

"Immigration has helped shape Canada into the country it is today," said Minister Fraser. "From farming and fishing to manufacturing, health-care and the transportation sector, Canada relies on immigrants. We are focused on economic recovery, and immigration is the key to getting there. Setting bold new immigration targets, as outlined in the 2022-2024 Levels Plan, will further help bring the immeasurable contribution of immigrants to our communities and across all sectors of the economy."

### Quick facts

- The levels plan is a projection of how many permanent residents will be admitted to Canada, and it sets targets and ranges for overall admissions immigration categories. Under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, the Minister must table the Levels Plan in Parliament each year.
- The levels plan takes into account extensive engagement with provincial and territorial representatives, as well as public opinion research and stakeholder consultations.



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## Empowering Constituents: One of the Many Tasks of an MLA

Since the beginning of my entry into politics, I have always believed that constituents not only need to be heard but they also need to be helped to make sure their voices are heard. Some necessary changes are indeed legislative and that is where I do my best to make sure the voices of my constituents are represented in debate inside of the legislature and that their perspectives make it into proposed legislation in the form of bills. However, another important aspect is the cultural change that accompanies existing perspectives, especially when it comes to human rights issues. For that reason, an important aspect of my work is assisting constituent groups organize and communicate not only with other MLAs, public and private stakeholders but the rest of the community. Along this end I am happy to share that I have been dedicating time to three important constituent lead initiatives in Edmonton-Ellerslie.

The first I have been working on since becoming MLA in 2015, is the need for a high school inside the riding. One of the first forms of public outreach I dedicated time to was an infrastructure survey for the riding. In the online survey provided to constituents, it was overwhelmingly identified that the riding needed a new high school. Currently there are eight K to 9 public/catholic schools in the riding and a handful of constituents have communicated to me that they would like a new high school. For that to happen, I as the MLA need to hear from the constituents that this is a priority. After an initial discussion with a few

**Rod  
Loyola**

**MLA  
for  
Edmonton-  
Ellerslie**



constituents, they decided to start an advocacy campaign to request the Government of Alberta prioritize a new high school. They have an active Facebook group called "Ellerslie High School Advocacy Group" and they are asking other constituents to write letters to me as the MLA so that I may take these to the government. It has been a learning experience for me as well as the group of concerned citizens that their voices can make a difference and I hope that with their continued advocacy we can make the request for a high school in Edmonton-Ellerslie a reality sooner rather than later.

Second, I am happy to communicate that out of a dire tragedy that is the mass graves of children found on resi-

dential school properties, a group of constituents and I are working together to do our part for the Calls to Action for Truth and Reconciliation. Last October a small group of constituents came together to talk about what could be done and what was identified was that Indigenous and non-Indigenous constituents need a space to talk about the systemic injustices that occurred in Canadian history as a starting point towards healing. The group decided to host along with me a Winter Solstice Ceremony in the South East. It was attended by many including Indigenous youth that don't often get a chance to attend ceremony or gain access to Indigenous knowledge because of transportation barriers. The first event by this group was an amazing success and now they are planning their second event, Spring Equinox Ceremony to be held on March 13. They also have a Facebook group called "Home Fire" where you can find out more about the group and future events.

Third but by far not the last initiative, I have re-introduced the Rod Loyola Youth Leadership Council for constituents between the ages of 16 and 35. This is an initiative that I started back in 2016 but because of COVID-

19 restrictions shut down. I am happy to communicate that the initiative has been re-initiated and has a total of 28 participants. On this council youth get an opportunity to improve their organization, communication, networking and outreach skills as they implement what they learn by hands-on involvement in already existing organizations or social movements. This is an excellent opportunity for youth to learn from the experiences of other youth and for me to learn about innovative ways that youth are organizing today. We are all teachers and learners at the same time.

Through all these initiatives, I share with constituents that having a working relationship with their elected representatives is what strengthens our democracy and that their voice helps to make real change happen. I make sure their opinions are heard in the legislature and their's helps to influence the court of public opinion. By working together we are all empowered but they also have a real example that solidifies the opinion that politics is not just about voting every four years.

*Rod Loyola is the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Ellerslie. He can be reached at 780-414-2000 or by e-mail at [edmonton.ellerslie@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:edmonton.ellerslie@assembly.ab.ca)*



On August 14, 2021, MLA Rod Loyola (left) joined the celebration of the Independence Day of Pakistan.

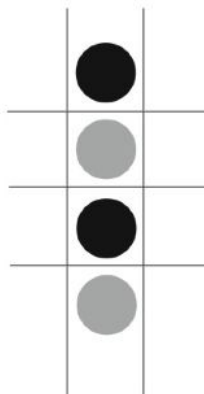


In July 2021, Rod Loyola (left) participated in the "Run for Palestine" to raise funds for medical assistance and vital aid to those affected by violence.

Photos: Office of MLA Rod Loyola

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7 - 7:30 p.m. Special Needs Program

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reflective of the community we serve," said Fire Chief Joe Zatylny. "We're looking for candidates to share their unique skills, past career and lived experiences to help us deliver excellent service to our communities. We know that without seeing yourself represented in a profession, it is hard to imagine it as an option. But it is an option, and we welcome everyone to this incredible profession."

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For more information: [JoinEFRS.ca](mailto:JoinEFRS.ca)

The next issue of the *Mill Woods Mosaic* will be published on March 15, 2022. The deadline for advertising and editorial is Friday, March 11.

## The Renaming of Dan Knott School Edmonton Public Schools Trustee Jan Sawyer (Ward 1)

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, Aimee Dorsey, a grade 8 student living in Mill Woods started a petition to rename Dan Knott School in June 2020. In her own words, "The school says they are inclusive to everyone, and I believe that the staff are, but I won't let it be named after someone who didn't stand against the Klan."

The Klan in fact lit a cross on fire at Connors Hill the night Dan Knott was elected mayor to celebrate. As a citizen of Edmonton, I just recently found out about the Klan's history in Alberta and I know a lot of other people are not aware. We need to teach students, and even adults, about our dark history after all these years of it being suppressed. I think that this petition is the first step to raise awareness of this history that not many people are aware of in our society."

Moved by this petition, which gained over 7800 signatures, and other feedback from Trustees and the community, the Board of Trustees moved in September of 2020, "that the Division rename Dan Knott following a process where we seek input from the community, following a process similar to the naming of new schools." In March of 2021, name submissions were solicited from the public and suggestions included names of important figures in Edmonton, Alberta and Canada as well as a number of Indigenous terms.

Following this process, the Board of Trustees determined that, in the spirit of re-

conciliation, an Indigenous-led process would be used to select an Indigenous term with which to rename Dan Knott School. A process to understand the values of students, staff and community members would be facilitated by administration, and then a group of Indigenous Elders and/or Knowledge Keepers would select the term to be used to rename the school.

On February 8, I was incredibly fortunate to participate in an engagement session with Dan Knott students and, later, a session open to all community members. During these sessions, we heard what are important values and traditions within the Dan Knott community. We are sharing what we heard with the Indigenous Naming Committee, a group of Indigenous leaders and Elders. They will use feedback from the student and community sessions to work together and choose an

Indigenous term or phrase for the new school name before the end of the school year.

I'm very excited to walk with the community through this important process and work together to come up with a new name that reflects the community's history and values.

If you have any concerns or issues, you can reach me at 780-429-8085 or [trustee.jan.sawyer@epsb.ca](mailto:trustee.jan.sawyer@epsb.ca). For more about Edmonton Public Schools: [epsb.ca](http://epsb.ca)



Trustee Jan Sawyer

## Targeted financial support programs available now

For eligible Canadians or business owners who continue to struggle due to COVID-19:

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- Canada Recovery Hiring Program
- Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit

[canada.ca/coronavirus](https://canada.ca/coronavirus)



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# Important addresses for immigrants and other newcomers

If you are new to Edmonton and don't know anybody, it can be tough to find a place to stay, a job, the right school for your children or good health care services, but there is plenty of help available.

Here are some of the main agencies specializing in helping immigrants and other newcomers in the Edmonton area:

**Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers**  
11713 - 82 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5B 2V9  
Tel. (780) 424-7709  
Website: [www.emcn.ab.ca](http://www.emcn.ab.ca)

*The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers offers a wide variety of programs for newcomers and helps immigrants to find a place to live, a job and English classes.*

**Welcome Centre for Immigrants in Mill Woods**  
Suite 200, Tower II, Millbourne Mall  
7609 - 38 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6K 3L6  
Tel. (780) 462-6924  
Website: [www.mwci-edmonton.net](http://www.mwci-edmonton.net)

*The Welcome Centre for Immigrants in Mill Woods offers many programs and services for immigrants, including settlement assistance, language and educational counseling, employment assistance, citizenship classes, English classes, computer classes, public speaking classes, and youth programs.*

**Changing Together Centre for Immigrant Women**  
3rd Floor, 9538 - 107 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5H 0T7  
Tel. (780) 421-0175  
Website: [www.changingtogether.com](http://www.changingtogether.com)

*Founded in 1984, Changing Together is a non-profit, charitable organization operated by immigrant women for immigrant women. Its mission is to help Edmonton and area immigrant women and their families overcome personal and systemic barriers that keep them from participating fully in Canadian Society.*

**Catholic Social Services**  
8212 - 118 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5B 0S3  
Tel. (780) 424-3545  
Website: [www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca](http://www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca)

*For more than 50 years, Catholic Social Services has welcomed immigrants and refugees to Alberta. The services are free and offered in both official languages and more than 50 other languages. In the Meadows, CSS runs a drop-in group for women of all ages and backgrounds. Participants connect through diverse activities like speaking English, sharing cultural experiences, learning to use computers and connecting with useful resources. The program, called Tea Connections, runs every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon, in the room of The Meadows Community League on the 2nd floor of the Meadows Community Recreation Centre, 2704 - 17 Street. For more information, contact Raminder Dhindsa at [raminder.dhindsa@cssalberta.ca](mailto:raminder.dhindsa@cssalberta.ca) or 780-391-3204.*

**Family Futures Resource Network**  
5704 - 19 A Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6L 1L8  
Tel. 413-4521  
Website: [www.familyfutures.ca](http://www.familyfutures.ca)

*The Family Futures Resource Network (FFRN) is a non-profit organization providing support to families and parents in the areas of early childhood education, child and youth, family and adult support and parent education. The FFRN has three separate*

*locations in Mill Woods: Millhurst Site (5704 - 19 A Avenue), Knottwood Site (1733 Mill Woods Road) and Millbourne Community Site (3756 - 78 Street).*

**Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative**  
9538 - 107 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5H 0T7  
Tel. (780) 423-1973  
Website: [www.mchb.org](http://www.mchb.org)

*The Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative is a registered worker's co-operative with members from immigrant and refugee communities, providing culturally and linguistically relevant prenatal education, post-natal outreach, parenting support, family liaison and community development support to immigrant and refugee families.*

**Indo-Canadian Women's Association**  
9324 - 34 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6E 5X8  
Tel. (780) 490-0477

*The Indo-Canadian Women's Association is a not-for-profit organization for enthusiastic volunteers committed to full participation of immigrant and visible minority women and men in economic, social and political life in Canada.*

**The Shaama Centre for Seniors and Women (formerly Multicultural Women & Seniors Services Association)**  
329 Woodvale Road West  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6L 3Z7  
Tel. (780) 465-2992

*The Shaama Centre for Seniors and Women (SCSW) is a non-profit, organization. The focus is to provide service and programs for immigrant women and senior men and women. Program goal is to promote and enhance the well-being and self-reliance of seniors and women especially those at risk and isolated before a crisis situation occurs. SCSW provides social support, information sessions, and skill building classes, home and hospital visits, as well as translation, and referrals to other service providers. It also offers family support and crisis intervention. For youth, there are Urdu and math classes and homework help, and there is also an Urdu library with more than 2000 books. The SCSW is open from 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.*

**Youth Empowerment and Support Services**  
9310 - Whyte Avenue (82 Ave.)  
Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 0Z6  
Tel. (780) 468-7070  
Website: [www.yess.org](http://www.yess.org)

*The Youth Emergency Shelter Society is a not-for-profit organization serving young people between the ages of 15-18 who are in crisis, at risk or homeless.*

**Alberta Employment Standards**  
Edmonton Office - Main Floor Sterling Place  
9940 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2N2  
Tel. (780) 427-3731  
Website: [www.employment.alberta.ca](http://www.employment.alberta.ca)

*Alberta Employment Standards is a provincial agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of employment standards in Alberta. AES has publications available for temporary foreign workers and their employers to help them understand their rights and responsibilities under Alberta's employment standards and workplace health and safety legislation. These publications are available in Chinese, English, French, German and Spanish.*

**NorQuest College**  
10215 - 108 Street NW  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 1L6  
Tel. (780) 422-2020  
Website: [www.norquest.ab.ca](http://www.norquest.ab.ca)

*NorQuest College is a public college offering many programs, including English as a Second Language classes and employment programs for immigrants.*

**Alberta Health and Wellness**  
Edmonton Office  
Telus Tower North, Main Floor  
10025 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Tel. (780) 427-1432  
Website: [www.health.alberta.ca](http://www.health.alberta.ca)

*Alberta Health and Wellness answers any questions about health care and health care insurance coverage in Alberta.*

**Immigrant Access Fund Canada**  
45, 9912 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 4M9  
Tel. (Toll Free) 1-855-423-2262  
Website: [www.iafcanada.org](http://www.iafcanada.org)

*The Immigrant Access Fund provides micro loans to internationally trained immigrant professionals, trades people and skilled workers so they may obtain the Canadian licensing and/or training that will allow them to obtain employment in their field.*

## Other important phone numbers:

### Edmonton Police Service

**Emergency calls only ..... 9-1-1**  
**Police - Fire - Ambulance**  
*Life & death, injury accident, crime in progress*

**Non-emergency calls (Dispatch) ..... 780-423-4567**  
*Report of suspicious activity, calls for assistance, advice, etc.*

**Poison Centre ..... 1-800-332-1414**

**Hazardous Material Spills ..... 9-1-1**

### Utility Trouble Calls Only:

**Power Emergency ..... 780-412-4500**  
*Within Edmonton*

**Gas Emergency ..... 780-420-5585**  
*Edmonton & Area*



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Website: [www.hillviewchurch.ca](http://www.hillviewchurch.ca)

253 Woodvale Road W  
Edmonton AB T6L 1E5  
Pastor: Norm Bleick



## Ending acts of racism and hate

### Edmonton City Councillor Jo-Anne Wright

The City of Edmonton's Anti-Racism Advisory Committee (ARAC) is a group of Edmontonians tasked with developing a strategy to end racism and discrimination in our city. The committee's initial mandate involved promoting awareness, training and education on racism and anti-racism in Edmonton, creating actionable tactics to address racially-motivated hate and providing advice to Council regarding community perspectives on issues relating to racism.

Over the past year, ARAC has advised City Council on the distribution of \$300,000 in approved funding under an Anti-racism Grants Program. These programs support youth, nonprofits and local grassroots organizations with the development of anti-racism projects and events.

Our city is continuing to see a rise in hate-based violence and discrimination, particularly against the Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) community. This makes it extremely difficult for newcomers to feel welcomed, and goes against our goal of becoming a more vibrant and inclusive city. ARAC has a difficult, yet vital, journey ahead to help Edmontonians create a more accepting and diverse city. As Councillor for one of the most diverse wards in the City, I appreciate

the work these volunteers have undertaken.

I was impressed by the scope of the presentation made to the Community and Public Services Committee on Monday, February 14th. Included in their report, ARAC recommended outcomes and measures as part of the proposed strategy moving forward. A few of the outcomes identified focus on: reducing incidents of racism and hate based violence; disempowering the causes of such violence; stimulating healing and facilitating recovery for communities affected by hate based violence; and increasing a sense of solidarity and connectedness between all diversities and communities in Edmonton. Thank you to Shalini Sinha, Chair of ARAC, and all its members for their dedication and leadership.



Coun. Jo-Anne Wright

The City of Edmonton remains committed to ending acts of racism and hate within our city and encourages all Edmontonians to learn more about how they can help. Together, we can build a diverse, inclusive and equitable city for all.

If you have any comments or concerns, I encourage you as always to reach out to my office at 780-496-8148 or jo-anne.wright@edmonton.ca.

The next issue of the *Mill Woods Mosaic* will be published on March 15, 2022.

The deadline for advertising and editorial is Friday, March 11, 2022.

## What's up?

### Community events in Mill Woods

On Feb. 8, the Government of Alberta announced that provincewide public health measures will be gradually lifted as the fifth wave of COVID-19 subsides and pressure on the health-care system eases. A three-step approach will begin with lower-risk activities while maintaining protections for the health-care system.

#### Step one (effective Feb. 8):

- Restrictions Exemption Program (REP) ends, along with most associated restrictions.
- Entertainment venues will continue to have some specific rules in place:
  - Restrictions on sale of food and beverages and consumption while seated in audience settings will be removed.
  - Restrictions on closing times, alcohol service, table capacity in restaurants and interactive activities will remain in force.
- For all businesses, venues and facilities – whether they were previously eligible for the REP or not – capacity limits are removed, except for:
  - Facilities with capacity of 500 to 1,000, which will be limited to 500.
  - Facilities with capacity of 1,000-plus, which will be limited to 50 per cent.
- Masks will no longer be required for all children and youth in schools.
- Masks will no longer be required in any setting for children aged 12 and under.

#### Step two (effective March 1):

- Any remaining provincial school requirements (including cohorting) will be removed.
- Screening prior to youth activities will no longer be required.
- Capacity limits will be lifted for all venues.
- Limits on social gatherings will be removed.
- Provincial mask mandate will be removed.
- Mandatory work from home removed.

For more information, visit the website of the Government of Alberta at [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca) or [www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca).

Do you have a community event in Mill Woods to announce? Please send us the information, and we will include it in this community calendar in the next issue of the *Mill Woods Mosaic*. Tel. (780) 465-7526 or e-mail to: [mwmosaic@telus.net](mailto:mwmosaic@telus.net)

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## PM: "Black Canadians have a long history of being trailblazers"

**On Feb. 1, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued the following statement on Black History Month:**

"Today marks the start of Black History Month. It is a time to honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present, and to recognize and celebrate the significant contributions they continue to make to our country.

"This year, the Government of Canada's Black History Month theme is 'February and Forever: Celebrating Black history today and every day.' It invites us to pay tribute to, and learn more about, the important roles that Black Canadians have played in building and shaping a more prosperous, diverse, and inclusive Canada.

"Black Canadians and their communities have a long history of being trailblazers and change makers. Among them is Dr. Alexandra Bastiany, an advocate for diversity in medicine who recently became Canada's first Black woman interventional cardiologist. Twenty-one-year-old Alphonso Davies from Edmonton is taking the soccer world by storm. Born to Liberian par-

ents, he came to Canada at the age of five. He now plays for the Canadian men's national soccer team and is a Global Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"Black history is Canadian history. Canadians of African ancestry have been an integral part of the fabric of this land for centuries. While Black History Month is a time for learning and celebration, we cannot forget that people of African descent created Black History Month in opposition to anti-Black racism, hate, and discrimination. Racism, hate, and discrimination continue to be a reality for many Canadians. We also know that the COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed social and economic fractures in Canada. Inequality, injustice, and inherent privilege still exist in our society, and we must continue to work together to build a better and more inclusive future for all Canadians.

"As part of our strong commitment to combat all forms of anti-Black racism and advance human rights and economic prosperity for Black Canadians, we offi-

cially recognized the United Nation's International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-24). And we are making it a priority to develop a whole-of-government action plan to ensure equality before the law, eradicate systemic racism, and improve the social, health, and economic well-being of Black Canadians.

"We continue to work in partnership with Black communities to advance this work. In 2020, we launched Canada's first Black Entrepreneurship Program to support Black Canadian business owners and entrepreneurs – for whom barriers were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic – as they grow their businesses, and to empower them to succeed into the future. We also committed to developing a Black Canadians Justice Strategy in consultation and cooperation

with provinces, territories, and Black Canadians.

"We will continue to build on historic investments to community organizations that are at the heart of Black Canadian communities. From recently supporting 1,400 projects with Black-led organizations across Canada to moving forward with the implementation of the Black-led Philanthropic Endowment Fund. As part of Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy, we continue to provide resources to communities and organizations to eliminate inequities and tackle racism.

"On behalf of the Government of Canada, I encourage everyone to learn more about Black Canadian history, as we strive to make our country stronger, fairer, and more inclusive. Let's aspire to be a society where all Black Canadians can succeed and prosper."

**Do you have a story idea  
for the Mill Woods Mosaic?  
Give us a call at 780-465-7526.**



The poster features a large, stylized 'SH' logo in a circle on the left. To its right, the text 'ST. HILDA' is written in large, bold, serif letters, with 'Catholic Junior High' in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. The background is a warm orange with subtle circular patterns. The main text 'Virtual Open House' is in a large, elegant script font, followed by 'February 16 at 6:30 pm' in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a black banner contains the contact information: '780 462-3195 • 7630-38 AVENUE NW • WWW.STHILDA.ECSD.NET'.

### Please join us for our St. Hilda Virtual Open House

We have been a mainstay in our Millbourne Community since 1976 and we are proud to continue with our tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, and spirituality, while always looking to the future in a Christ Centered Approach! Alongside our regular programming, we offer Accelerated Math and Science that allow students to complete their grade 10 equivalency and achieve credits for these classes. Sports, Fine Arts, Humanities, Complimentary Courses, we have them all! Join us online and find out more! We look forward to seeing you!



## Covenant unveils plans for new community wellness centre in Mill Woods

Covenant Health has unveiled plans for a new community wellness centre in Mill Woods which will be located in the building that was formerly occupied by the South Campus of MacEwan University at 7319 - 29 Avenue, north of the Mill Woods Recreation Centre.

Covenant Health announced the project on Feb. 15 with the following media release:

The Covenant family is pleased to unveil its bold vision for a new wellness community in southeast Edmonton.

Operating under the project name "Covenant Wellness Community", this health and wellness hub will be the first of its kind in Alberta. As a key partner within Alberta's integrated health system, Covenant is committed to transforming health care for our patients, residents and communities.

The Covenant Wellness Community (CWC) will be a community-based health and wellness hub that will serve Albertans for generations. This concept will provide a cost-effective means to address Grey Nuns capacity pressures, the needs of the southeast community and the growing needs of Alberta's senior population.

The wellness community will include:

- A community health centre
- Multigenerational housing
- Integrated seniors' continuing care centre



Rendering of the Covenant Wellness Community

CovenantHealth.ca

- Surgical services or expansion space (to be determined as needs are identified)
  - Commercial buildings (to be determined as needs are identified)
- "When people walk through our doors, they will find a one-stop shop for holistic, person-centred care and service," said Patrick Dumelie, Covenant, CEO. "Our wellness community will welcome people from all demographics and walks of life, with a special focus on inclusion and accessibility for all."

The CWC will drive a paradigm shift in health care delivery, from dependence on hospital settings to appropriate, community-based care that meets

the complex needs of those served. At its heart, it's about empowering people and families to live well in their community.

Covenant purchased the Southeast Campus in 2017 with a bold vision to address healthcare gaps through community-based services. At its heart, the vision has not changed; however, the pandemic was an opportunity to fine tune the vision to align with evolving community needs and provincial priorities.

"The Covenant wellness community is a step toward a healthier Alberta and a more sustainable health system that meets the needs of our growing population," said Jason Copping, Alberta's

Minister of Health.

"Revolutionary seniors' care is a key focus for the Covenant wellness community," said Dumelie. "Our integrated seniors' care centre will be purpose-built to provide innovative, compassionate care that meets seniors' evolving needs and allows them to age in place. We will use cutting-edge technologies and best practices in seniors care to ensure our residents receive the world-class care they deserve."

Using a public/private partnership model, the Covenant family is pleased to partner with Rohit Group of Companies to develop the Covenant wellness community. Using this funding model will allow Covenant to enhance our integrated health system and stimulate economic recovery in Alberta without the need to rely on tax dollars.

Using health care delivery as an anchor and catalyst, the project will spur community development – bringing together financially sustainable, complementary uses that generate maximum benefit to Alberta.

"For decades, Covenant has collaborated with partners and local organizations to bridge healthcare gaps and explore creative models of care," said Ed Stelmach, Covenant Board of Governors Chair. "We're proud to leverage our culture of innovation to build a vibrant community of health and healing that delivers timely, comprehensive care to southeast Edmonton."



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**E** [danknott@epsb.ca](mailto:danknott@epsb.ca)

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